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To: [Young, Patrick \(ATSDR/DRO\)](#)
Subject: FW: 05-14-2010 CDC SITREP #4- Deepwater Horizon
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From: EOC Report (CDC)

Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 4:07 PM

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Cc: EOC Report (CDC)

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Incident Notice – Update

SITREP #4

NARRATIVE:

. **SITUATION:** On 4/20/2010 an explosion occurred on the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Deepwater Horizon. The subsequent fire continued to burn until the MODU sank. The overpressure safety devices built into the MODU drilling string failed resulting in a continuing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

. **EOC ACTIVATION:** May 10, 2010, 1624 hours.

. **HHS Senior Leader calls** shifted from daily to M-W-F.

Overview of CDC Strategic Objectives:

. Provide assistance on all matters related to the assessment of health hazards at a response and protection of response workers and the public health.

. When presented cases of confirmed human exposure determine whether

illnesses, diseases, or complaints may be attributable to exposure to a hazardous material.

- Establish disease/exposure registries and conduct appropriate clinical testing as requested.

- As it relates to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response, develop, maintain, and provide information on the health effects of toxic substances.

CDC ACTIVITIES:

Scientific Response Section (SRS):

- Identified a NOAA Tarball fact sheet, among others, and forwarded the link for all to JIC <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53023/>.

Worker Safety and Health Activities:

- 2 Field Epidemiologists remain deployed by NIOSH to Unified Command, Houma LA.

- NIOSH expects to have initial surveys included in initial training of workers by this weekend, pending approval from the Training contractor.

- NIOSH received OMB approval for a one page "Initial Survey" form which will serve as the primary tool for rostering workers. This form is accompanied by a two page Disclosure form which describes the privacy policy and voluntary nature of the survey.

- EOC/JIC has provided language translation services translate initial survey and disclosure forms into Spanish and Vietnamese language versions. NIOSH plans to distribute this form to as many workers as possible through various avenues for distribution to paid workers, volunteers, and federal personnel involved in the response.

- Coordinating with BP Safety personnel to conduct a conference call with the safety officers of the 14 staging sites to get their cooperation on distributing the survey to workers in the field.

- Recent reports of workers suffering respiratory irritation on platforms floating above the spreading oil spill are being actively addressed by BP Safety Officials. Environmental exposure monitoring is being conducted at the water surface and on the deck of the platforms to assess potential exposure levels. BP toxicology specialists travel to adjacent platforms and address worker concerns in question and answer meetings. Air quality sampling results taken at complaint sites are reported to remain well below occupational exposure limits.

- NIOSH expects to have initial surveys included in initial training of workers

by this weekend, pending approval from the Training contractor.

- To cover those workers who have already been trained, NIOSH is planning to visit Staging sites in LA, MS, and AL in order to present the survey to workers during the morning Safety Brief.
- NIOSH field unit staff levels to increase to five staff deployed at BP Unified Command, Houma LA - by Sunday May 16th.
- Three personnel to deploy this weekend.

ATSDR

- ATSDR is close to finalizing the joint Federal and State Gulf Screening Values which is being developed in conjunction with our Federal & State environmental and public health partners.
- ATSDR provided response cost at the request of the EPA IC and the Regional Administrator.
- ATSDR provided comments to the State of Mississippi DH on a fact sheet for *Vibrio vulnificus* infections in seawater.
- ATSDR reviewed air monitoring data from 05/11/2010 for the Houma, LA to Panama City, FL geographical area.
- Real time monitoring was conducted for total VOC's, H₂S, SO₂, Benzene, PM₁₀. No levels were detected which presented any public health concern. In addition, trained odor testing teams were sent out to areas between Houma, LA and Panama City, FL. No odors from the crude oil spill were detected.
- ATSDR made a request to BP to be notified of any OSHA reportable injuries. ATSDR is supporting the department by attending 2 public meetings which are being sponsored by various activist groups. The first meeting is being held in Ocean Springs, MS on 05/12/2010, and the second is being held in Houma, LA, on 05/13/2010.
- ATSDR personnel deployed to EPA will be demobilizing on Monday, 5/17/2010.

Environmental Health Team

- There are now 5 reviewers to support this effort. They are taking the two data packages (0510 and 0511) and running them through four people - two each- to compare the results of the review against each other and look for mistakes in the method.
- Human health hazards related to oil in the data have not been identified.
- Working to shorten the turnaround back to EPA. Probably not going to get

down to the four hours EPA HQ asked for, but may be able to get it down to about 12 hours or so.

- CDC/ATSDR received another data package from EPA for review. Two data packages completed with the evaluations going out today; a third one in progress, and this fourth one just received. Anticipate the third data package to be completed tonight and the fourth tomorrow. Anticipate another data package tonight. To date, none of the detections have been associated with crude oil.

- Based on the CDC/ATSDR evaluations and recommendations, an environmental team investigated an anomaly. A small leak in an oil pipeline in the Mississippi River Delta was detected and corrective action initiated. In addition, a detection of a controlled substance was detected in a single sample along the MS/AL Coast. CDC/ATSDR recommended that this data be share with appropriate law enforcement agencies.

- Work resumed on a fact sheet describing the CDC/ATSDR role in environmental data review; anticipate that it will be provided to NCEH/ATSDR OC for editing today and then submission for cross clearance either over the weekend or early next week.

Epidemiology/Surveillance

- As of May 14, 2010, there were 75 calls reported to Poison Centers. Of these, 13 were from Mississippi (5 were calls reporting potential exposure and health effects and 8 were calls for information only), 2 information and 1 exposure calls from Alabama, and 50 information and 8 exposure calls from Louisiana. 1 information call was reported from AR. We are closely monitoring the increase in calls in LA, some of these reflect older calls that are being reported. LAPCC is also in close communication with the LA State Health Dept. Each state is receiving daily PCC information

Deployments:

- As of 14 May, CDC has 2 personnel deployed to Mobile, AL, and 2 personnel to Houma, LA, for a total of 4 deployed personnel.

ATSDR Liaison to EPA HQ Emergency Operations Center Desk:

- The EPA air monitoring and sampling data package for 5-13-2010 was sent to the CDC IMS Environ/Occupational Health Team Leader mailbox for review. The NCEH/ATSDR Environmental Health team is reviewing the data packages from EPA dated May 10-13 2010. At this point, ATSDR does not anticipate any increased hazard to human health related to the oil spill based on the data reviewed to date.

- Responded to request from ATSDR regarding whether or not EPA is using CDC data evaluations. EPA is using our data evaluations. Met with EPA OAR and PIO to discuss options for future data posting and subsequent joint public health messages involving EPA and ATSDR.

. ATSDR Liaison met with the EPA EU to discuss this and other issues related to the sampling data. The corrected air monitoring data for 5-13 was sent to the CDC IMS Environ/Occupational Health Team Leader for review.

. Beginning May 9 all data (monitoring, sampling, water, air, sediment) will be published to the web once a day, at 1800.

Joint Information Center:

Communication Channels and Traffic:

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY METRICS¹

M

Tu

W

Th

F

5.10

5.11

5.12

5.13

5.14

Web Page Views

CDC Chemical Emergencies Web Page

*

365

223

(-39%)

194

	(+13%)
CDC Gulf Oil Spill Web Page	
	*
	*
	803
	1,175
	(+46%)
Direct Inquiries	
Public calls or emails to CDC INFO	
	*
	0
	2
	0
Clinician calls or e-mails to CDC INFO	
	*
	0
	0
	0
COCA emails	
	0
	0
	0
	0
Media Interest	

Internet

151

331

(+119%)

530

(+60%)

371

(-30%)

Print

143

81

(-43%)

87

(+7%)

116

(+33%)

National television stories

*

952

1269

(+33%)

888

(-30%)

Local television stories

	*
	*
	*
	*
Total television	
	*
	*
	*
	*
Journalist inquiries	
	3
	0
	*
	*
Twitter	
# tweets/per hour	
"Oil spill"	
	891
	1,063
	(+19%)
	832
	(-22%)
	1,039
	(+25%)

Blogs

blogs in 24 hr period

Google Blogs

25,558

187,895

(+635%)

114,530

(-39%)

413,721

(+261%)

TABLE NOTES

Reporting Periods:

· Twitter: current reporting date

· CDC-INFO, COCA emails, Journalist inquiries, Web, Print/Internet, TV, Blogs: 1 calendar day prior to reporting date (except May 10 Journalist inquiries, which were the total received to date)

Media Sources:

· Print/Internet: Largest daily paper and associated website in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets, and major wire services

· National TV sources: ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and FOX News network broadcasts

· Local TV sources: affiliate broadcasts (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets

¹ Here and throughout table, percent change from 1 day prior to reporting date is given in parentheses

*not available by reporting deadline

Outreach to Responders:

- Posted the Epi-X Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Media Report, May 13, 2010.

- Enrolled 1 AL, 1 MS, 2 FL and 2 LA state staff into Epi-X to participate in the NCEH Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Forum (name subject to change at NCEH's direction).

News and Social Media Report: PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS TRADITIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Public Health Threats:

Food & Water Threats: Damage to the wetlands could cost society billions of dollars in lost natural filtration of water and protection of property from storm surges.

Air Quality/Smell: Scientists with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are testing air quality for volatile organic compound levels that could be a human health concern in South Pass, LA.

Skin Exposure: Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureaus have an advisory to the public stating, "Tar balls DO NOT pose a health risk to the average person," but beachgoers are advised not to pick them up.

Emerging Themes/Other:

- If the oil comes ashore in the Panhandle, officials warn the beaches would have to be shut down.

- Florida activates oil spill information line to provide residents and visitors with updates on the oil spill.

CDC Mentions:

- A panel representing members from the CDC, NOAA, EPA, OSHA, the US Coast Guard as well as BP answered questions during a community meeting in Ocean Springs, FL today.

PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Public Health Threats

Food & Water Threats:

- Mixed reports about the safety of seafood and the long term effects of the spill on the food chain.

- Largest concern for marine life in the marshland near the US gulf shore coasts.

- Increasing numbers of dead and dying dolphins, fish, and birds are being washed ashore.

- Toxins from the oil stay in the environment for decades and the individuals who eat food from the Gulf coast may be inhaling toxic hydrocarbons.

Air Quality/Smell:

- People with increased sensitivity to air quality should stay indoors.
- Odors being reported as far away as Southwest Florida coast.

Skin Exposure: Avoid direct skin contact and wash oil off immediately with soap and water if oil gets on skin.

Emerging Themes/Other:

- Concerns about unknown effects of chemical dispersants.
- Health concerns for workers and fishermen cleaning up the oil spill and New Orleans children, and other individuals who live along the Gulf coast.

CDC Mentions:

- CDC is mentioned as part of Unified Command in Deepwater Horizon Response.
- CDC & ATSDR are mentioned as helping the EPA with air and water sampling.

Situational Awareness (SA):

- Created Google earth KMA CDC GIS Oil Spill Forecast Maps.
- Uploading DH documents to the CDC EOC Common Operating Picture.

Plans:

- Published daily SITREP and HHS EXSUM.
- Published Initial Incident Action Plan (IAP).

Logistics: NSTR

Compiled by: Lynn Perkins, Documentation Unit

Approved by: Mark Austin, Planning Section Chief

<<05-14-2010 CDC SITREP #4- Deepwater Horizon.docx>>

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